

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-07 CEA-01 AGRE-00
DOE-15 SOE-02 /131 W
-----126643 131302Z /43/15

R 111358Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2588
INFO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
AMCONSUL LENENGRAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ECON, ETRD, EEWT, UR, TU

SUBJ: TURKISH-SOVIET ECONOMIC COOPERATION

REF: (A) ANKARA 4745, (B) MOSCOW 15632

1. EMBOFFS DISCUSSED TURKISH-SOVIET ECONOMIC COOPERATION
AGREEMENT IN SEPARATE INTERVIEWS WITH VLADIMIR LIALIAKIN
OF THE SOVIE COMMERCIAL OFFICE IN ANKARA AND MUMIN
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ALANAT, DIRECTOR OF BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS FOR
EASTERN EUROPE AND EAST ASIA OF THE TURKISH MINISRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. BOTH CONFIRMED THE GENERAL OUTLINES
OF THE ECONOMIC AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE REACHED IN MOSCOW
(REPORED REFTELS) AND NEITHER ADDED ANYTHING OF SUBSTANCE
TO THE INFORMATION ALREADY REPORTED, INSISTING THAT
DETAILS OF THE TRADE AGREEMENT WERE YET TO BE WORKED OUT.

2. THE IMPRESSION RECEIVED DURING BOTH INTERVIEWS WAS THAT LITTLE OR NO ADVANCE PLANNING OR PREPARATION HAD BEEN DONE EITHER BY THE TURKS OR BY THE SOVIET MISSION IN ANKARA AND THAT THE POLITICAL DECISIONS ESTABLISHING THE FRAMEWORK OF THE TRADE AGREEMENT CAME AS A SURPRISE TO BOTH SOVIET AND TURKISH BUREAUCRACIES.

3. NEITHER ALANAT NOR LIALIAKIN COULD SAY WHETHER THE NEW THREE-YEAR TRADE AGREEMENT WAS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN JANUARY 1979 OR IN APRIL 1979, AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CURRENT ONE-YEAR TRADE PROTOCOL. THIS TOO WAS APPARENTLY A TECHNICAL DETAIL STILL TO BE WORKED OUT.

4. ALANAT DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT A SOVIET DELEGATION WOULD COME TO ANKARA IN AUGUST TO NEGOTIATE THE DETAILS RAHER THAN DURING THE SEPTEMBER JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING IN MOSCOW AS WAS REPORTED EARLIER. THIS WAS APPARENTLY CORROBORADIN A JULY 11 PRESS STATEMENT BY TURKISH COMMERCE MINISTER KOPRULULER THAT THE THREE-YEAR TRADE AGREEMENT WOULD BE SIGNED AT THE IZMIR TRADE FAIR ON AUGUST 20. CONFUSION ON THIS POINT IS COMPOUNDED BY PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT'S STATEMENT TO A TASS CORRESPONDENT JULY 10 THAT THE DETAILS OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT WOULD BE NEGOTIATED IN SEPTEMBER.

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5. THE ECEVIT STATEMENT EMPHASIZED THE COMPELMENTARITY OF THE TURKISH AND SOVIET ECONOMIES AND HE DECLARED THAT, "THE NEW TRADE RELATIONS ON WHICH WE AGREED WILL ENABLE US TO MEET ONE ANOTHER'S NEEDS FOR A LTNG PERIOD. I BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE A 2.5-3 FOLD INCREASE IN TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AS FROM NEXT YEAR, EVEN THIS YEAR, AND THAT THIS WILL INCREASE FURTHER IN THE FUTURE." THIS PUBLIC OPTIMISM CONTRASTS WITT THE PRIVATE DOUBTS OF BILSAY KURUC, HEAD OF TURKEY'S STATE PLANNING OFFICE, WHO TOLDEMBOFFS HE THOUGHT THE INCREASES IN TURKISH EXPORTS CALLED FOR IN THE TURCO-SOVIET PROTOCOL WERE UNREALISTIC.

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT HE RETICENCE OF OFFICIALS TO COMMENT ON THE AGREEMENT AND THE APPARENT CONFUSION ON THE NEXT STEPS TO BE TAKEN TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORTS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THIS AGREEMENT WERE NOT FULLY CONSIDERED BY THE TURKS, AT LEAST, BEFORE THE ECEVIT TRIP TO MOSCOW.
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